

Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, MPOL, MILI, TH

SUBJ: THAI-U.S. MUTUAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES: PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS,
MAY 21

USIA PASS IEA

1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION
OF EXCERPTS FROM PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOJ'S PRESS CONFERENCE
MAY 21 IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING
THAI-U.S. MUTUAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES.

2. BEGIN EXCERPTS

REPORTER: WHAT MOVES HAVE YOU MADE REGARDING THE RADAR
STATIONS, CONCERNING EQUIPMENT?

SENI: THERE ARE MANY KINDS THAT WOULD BE OF USE TO US
AND WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN. SINCE THE SEVEN POINTS
ANNOUNCED ARE CONDITIONS WHICH CANNOT BE CHANGED, TH ONLY
ALTERNATIVE LEFT US. AND WHICH IS IN OUR INTERESTS, IS FOR
US TO ENDEAVOR TO NEGOTIATE AND BARGAIN. THAT IS ALL WE
CAN DO.

REPORTER: SHOULD WE OBTAIN EQUIPMENT WE WANT, WHAT
WOULD WE HAVE TO GIVE IN RETURN?

SENI: WE WOULD INCUR EXPENDITURE, OF COURSE. (LAUGHS)

REPORTER: EXPENDITURE INCURRED FOR OPERATION OF THE

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EQUIPMENT, OR IN WHAT OTHER WAY?

SENI: IT DEPENDS ON WHAT IS STILL LEFT HERE. THERE MIGHT BE SOME EXPENDITURE. I WOULD LIKE MR. PHICHA (FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHA RATTAKUN) TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THAT.

REPORTER: REGARDING THE AMERICAN CIVILIAN ADVISORS WHO WILL BE SENT HERE, ABOUT HOW LONG WOULD THEY HAVE TO REMAIN HERE?

SENI: AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED FIRST ON DETAILS--ON WHAT EQUIPMENT WE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN AND WHAT THEY WILL GIVE US. THE QUESTION REGARDING AMERICAN CIVILIAN ADVISORS WILL BE TAKEN UP FOR CONSIDERATION LATER.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT IT WAS SOUNDING THE REACTION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS? WILL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TO BE HELD WITH AMERICA AGAIN ON DETAILS?

SENI: YES.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD AGAIN?

SENI: AS MR. PHICHA AND

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN

AFFAIRS HAVE ALREADY STATED, THE U.S. MADE A NEW PROPOSAL, NEW SUGGESTIONS, SO NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE HELD.

REPORTER: AND WHAT ABOUT THE CONDITIONS AND BARGAINING LATER PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT?

SENI: THEY ARE NOT CONDITIONS AND BARGAINING. IT IS A PROPOSAL, A PROPOSAL CONCERNING EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL BE LEFT FOR US TO CONTINUE USING.

REPORTER: IS IT A PROPOSAL MADE BY THE U.S. TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT?

SENI: IT WAS MADE TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY THAT MINISTRY IT IS A NEW PROPOSAL. THEREFORE, NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE HELD ON IT.

REPORTER: WILL THEY TAKE A LONG TIME?

SENI: THEY SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG, NOT VERY LONG. THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANYTHING CAUSING MUCH DIFFICULTY.

REPORTER: WILL THEY BE HELD BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTER GOES TO MALAYSIA?

SENI: I DON'T KNOW.

REPORTER: DOES THE U.S. STILL WISH TO HAVE SOME MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN OUR COUNTRY?

SENI: NO, NO. NONE WILL REMAIN HERE.

REPORTER: DO YOU ADHERE TO THAT ?

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SENI: NONE WILL REMAIN HERE, DEFINITELY.

REPORTER: WON'T ADVISORS REMAIN IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN ORDER TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO...?

SENI: THERE WILL DEFINITELY BE NO MILITARY ADVISORS. SHOULD THERE BE ANY ADVISORS, THEY MIGHT BE CIVILIANS TO GIVE US ADVICE AND TO HELP TRAIN THAIS ON OPERATION OF RADAR AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WE HAVE KEPT FOR USE.
END EXCERPTS

WHITEHOUSE

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